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## THE MANIAC WHO RULED

Germany is noted for the sensation which is from time to time caused from one end of it to the other by some book. America has its book sensations, too, for American are a reading people. But the books which are much talked about in this country are unusually novels, and novels of an ephemeral kind, at that. In Germany the sensational books are commonly of a very deep, heavy and learned sort, such as Spengler's "Downfall of Western Civilization," or Houston Stewart Chamberlain's "Foundation of the Nineteenth Century."

Just now the book of the hour in what was formerly the empire of the Hohenzollern is a work entitled "Germany's Tragedy," the most striking chapter of which is devoted to the former emperor himself. The anonymous author maintains that Wilhelm was not merely an egotist, but an actually insane egotist, who has for many years suffered from a brain disease of a hereditary character. The malady is said, in deed to have been well-defined even in his youth, so that his father, Kaiser Frederick, bluntly declared Wilhelm was not of sound mind and ought never to come to the throne.

Readers of Kaiser Wilhelm's history do not find it hard to believe the story, and many of them wonder that a man known by the inner court circles to be mentally unsound should have been able so long to impose his will upon a great and supposedly civilized people. But it is not the first time that a lunatic has sat upon a throne. It has, on the contrary, been a fairly common phenomenon, peculiar to the monarchical system.

European aristocrats sneer at democracy, but whatever its faults republics do not elect maniacs to the highest places in the state. The anonymous author of "Germany's Tragedy" seeks by his revelations to impress upon his fellow-countrymen a truth which some of them even yet are apparently indifferent to. As he remarks: "Unhappily, the acts of Wilhelm, who belonged in a sanitarium, were more than those of a mad man. They were the acts of a crowned ruler, spelling ruin to a people who did not have the resolution to put him where he belonged. A man who, after this experience, still believes in monarchy, is indeed unteachable and incurable."

## ORGY OF FAULT-FINDING

The average newspaper reader must have become impressed with the amount of carping criticism, both in and out of congress, that is taking the place of statements of fact, which should be made on legislative and other issues for the enlightenment of the public.

Many members of congress, for example, are indulging in personalities and other statements which will not bar the scrutiny of one who is concerned in having the truth known. The railroad situation has for months presented an example of charges and counter-charges of bad faith on the part of parties to the controversy, and the members of the railroad labor board have not been spared the criticism of persons who hope to gain something to their advantage before the public.

The efforts of coal operators and representatives of the striking miners to get somewhere by taking it out in interviews for the newspaper are quite fresh in the minds of the people. Charges of bad faith, if not duplicity, in the mining situation have been bandied about for weeks. The minds of those indulging in these charges may be eased a bit, but it is certain that nothing has been done toward solving the problem.

The public is interested in knowing the truth about any issue that arises, whether in congress or other departments of the government, or in industrial affairs. How can it know the truth when statements are so conflicting, and when many of those making them prefer a multiplicity of words to the proof which should be produced, if existent, and easily demonstrated if presented?

It is not surprising that the public is losing patience with the manner in which issues affecting them greatly are made the subject of wordy controversy, which simply aggravates the situation without meeting its needs. It does seem, judging by the past, that a certain amount of unnecessary talk is involved in any controversy, and it is probably too much to expect early improvement in methods.

## BETTER TIMES ARE HERE.

The New York stock market is discounting the future not so much as the present. This is the accepted explanation of the general advance in securities prices during the last few months. Those whose business it is to know the industrial and commercial trend are convinced that the long-desired revival is under way and will not be arrested in the near future. They are acting consistently with their information and belief. They are pushing the good thing along for their own advantage and, as the sequel will prove, to the vast benefit of everyone.

Conan Doyle announces that affinities marry in heaven, but he doesn't say how often.

A scientist says the earth is a big ball of jelly, and we sometimes feel that he is right, considering the number of jellyfish running around loose.

## MINIATURE STEEL BOOM

The opinion is quite commonly entertained in this country that while we are plainly on the threshold of an era of prosperity we have no right to expect that the present generation of Americans will again witness such a boom in business as followed the armistice and continued throughout the year 1919 and the greater portion of 1920, when common day laborers were said to be wearing silk shirts. But developments in the iron and steel industry suggest that this may be the wrong view.

For instance, during recent months the rates of steel ingot production per annum estimated from the monthly ingot report of the American Iron and Steel Institute, giving the lithomage of 30 of the producing companies, have been as follows: October and November, 23,000,000 tons; December, slightly under 20,000,000 tons; January, 22,750,000 tons; February, 26,850,000 tons; March, 32,500,000 tons. If these rate are plotted, the line connecting December and March is practically straight, and with an average rate of 32,500,000 tons during March the rate March 31 appears to have been 36,000,000 tons, and the prospect that date was that the steel mills would continue to increase their output unless prevented by failure of fuel supply due to the coal strike.

This rate of production very nearly equals the production during the after-war boom. In fact, it is stated that just before the suspensions of last week caused by the mine strike the U. S. Steel corporation's plants were operating to almost 75 per cent of their capacity as against little more than 45 per cent in December last. And this remarkable improvement is the direct result of unexpectedly heavy bookings of orders, which amount to 90 per cent of capacity.

A steel market of such proportions so soon after so severe an industrial depression as last winter's is a warning not to be too sure that the after-war boom is not to be surpassed. An incidental consequence of the new trade activity may be a temporary arrest of the decline in prices, but if millions of men now unemployed are set to work again and everybody is busy and prosperous no one will complain unduly about the absence of panic prices.

## LOVE FOR THE HOME TOWN

Human nature runs to two extremes. The finest types of men and women think but little of themselves, and they give their lives and their all to noble ideals. Others are more selfish, they concentrate their thought on personal acquisition, and cherish no interests broader than their own pleasure.

Human progress goes on only as people get away from this sordid line of thought, and acquire the higher ideas of life. Patriotism, the sentiment that makes one love his country, and in time of peril leads the soldier to offer his life, is one of the most noble of those ideals. The majority of people entertain this sentiment.

There ought to be room also in the normal heart, for a feeling of home town patriotism, a love of one's own community that shall be deep and vigorous and sacrificial, much like the love for country. These scenes amid which people spend their daily lives, should have their pull on their heart strings.

They may have commonplace features and some ugly ones, like all communities. But they constitute home, just as much as the four walls in the dwelling in which one lives his life. The old song "Home, Sweet Home," should apply not merely to the house in which a person lives, but to all the scenes of the home community.

To the generous imagination, a feeling of some romantic attachment should grow up for one's home community. These streets and buildings may not be more wonderful than others, but they are the scene of our struggle and effort, of our joy and sorrow. They have seen our triumphs and our reverses. We have built something of our heart into them, and they have become part of our lives that should never be forgotten no matter where life may take us. There is something lacking in the mentality that does not feel a touch of emotion on thinking of his home town.

## FLAPPERS

The word "flapper," in American slang, has had a curious history. Not one person in a hundred who casually uses the term knows its origin.

In England, for many years the young school girl in her teens has been called the "flapper." Her long hair flaps down her back, and she is of an age when she is disposed to try her half-grown wings. The wild duck or partridge is called a flapper at a similar age—immature, but with the first stirrings of life and adventure urging on to experiment. In Germany the young girl of equal age is called a "backfisch."

It is quite likely that the modern usage can be traced to the story of "Bunker Bean" in which the heroine, being young, yet adventurous, is referred to as "the flapper." Definitely American in being perfectly sure of herself and of what she wanted, and in going after it with a wholly American directness, she was, perhaps, the half-way point between the English flapper with her hair down her back and the amazing young American with no skin of her own, apparently, except some kind of foundation for powder, rouge, lip stick and eyebrow pencil.

The difference is that the modern young woman does not know exactly what she wants. She knows what she thinks she wants and goes after that. But that the artificial gayety, the mushy petting, the wild nights are not what she really wants is proved by her desertion of the ranks when anything better offers.

Youth has always been foolish and frivolous. If it were not, it would not be young. It ages soon enough, matures, settles. What form the frivolity of this year takes is of little consequence.

Where are the flappers of yesteryear? Entering theirs in the Better Babies contests, making the left-overs attractive and working the bank home economics bureaus overtime. They flap no longer. Their wings have grown!

## THE HIGH SCHOOL BAND

Those who attended the first public concert given by the High School Band, organized about three months ago, at the High School Auditorium last night, left for their homes with an entirely different opinion of their own ability to judge beforehand. The band, they well knew, was an organization of but three months' standing, therefore in all truth, the greater part of the audience went prepared for the worst.

It is easy to surmise what the average person would expect from a band composed of young scholars, many of whom had never touched a musical instrument before, nor could read a note.

In other words, the Hi School Band last evening was put to a test before a large crowd of doubting Thomases. They made good!

They surpassed the expectations of the local public by a handsome margin, so much so as to leave the general impression that "they have builded better than they knew."

## PROFIT IN WELL KEPT HOMES

Are you proud of your city? Do you think it is a fine place in which to live and do business? Do you feel a sense of satisfaction when sight-seers from other cities drive past your own home and notice your yard? Well, you know that one swallow does not make a summer. One single clean and attractive home will not impress visitors except to show the hideous contrast of its surrounding neighborhood and the whole city which furnish visitors their impressions and estimates of the conditions of the public spirit and of the business and property values and prospects of your neighborhood and your city. The cleaner you keep your own premises the more interested you should be in seeing that the whole city is kept clean to match your own standards. It is your right to expect cleanliness and orderliness all around you for the protection of both your health and your property.

Possibly the home owner may want to sell his property. The attractive, thriftily cared for home, in a clean neighborhood, will bring so much more money and such a quicker sale or rental than one in a dirty, run-down neighborhood, that it becomes patent that besides all the safety and comfort and pride one finds in keeping their places in a good, sanitary condition, there's real profit in doing so.

There is scarcely a neighborhood in this city that will not be better for a thorough cleaning up.

Eye sores are, unfortunately for ourselves, altogether too plentiful about our city, and there is no necessity or just cause for such a situation. The wonders of a little paint and a small amount of repair have been demonstrated recently by several citizens of the brand that the city needs a few more of. Certain pieces of property have been "dolled up" with a noticeable improvement that is a pleasure to everyone nursing the smallest iota of civic pride. There is no reason why those who can afford to own property and realize high rentals from it, cannot afford to keep such property in a semi-decent condition.

But, how can we expect this from the individual property owner, when our own City Hall presents the appearance of a vacant livery stable?

It is understood that the City Council has decided to paint the front of the City Hall. This action, however, was not voted upon unanimously, as part of the council are in favor of painting the whole building. How much would it cost, and how much would it be worth? The cost and the return cannot be compared.

The city has the money with which to do the work, and do it right. The general appearance of the City Hall could be improved 100 per cent.

Have you ever been forced to admit that the building facing north on Fremont street, between Third and Fourth Streets is this community's "City Hall?"

For our own sake, let's paint it or remove the lettering from its front!

## SILVER MINING OUTLOOK BRIGHT

The British Indian office attempt to throttle silver has met with defeat.

A proposal to levy an import tax on silver brought into India and to provide a premium equal to the import tax on all silver shipments out of that country was rejected.

Improvements in the Indian situation resulted in higher silver prices during the week.

Sales in foreign silver were made at 70 cents which is the highest this year. Shipments to London from New York continue in large volume.

India is not only making many demands in London for silver, but is active in the New York market.

China is said to have been a seller in the London markets, but has been a buyer in New York.

China's silver purchases in this country since the first of the year are about \$6,000,000 against one-half this amount for the corresponding period last year.

India, likewise, is a buyer to the extent of about \$2,000,000 compared with \$962,899 last year.

## PAYS TO ADVERTISE

BARRINGTON, Ill.—John Hays, farmer, advertised he would give a drink out of a bonded bottle for the return of a pig which had strayed away. He had ten pigs before the paper was out an hour.—Exchange.

Chancellor Wirth, of Germany, is reported to be disappointed and gloomy over the Genoa conference, probably because reparations are still demanded.

Too much horse power and too little horse sense is a dangerous concoction.

Virtue may be its own reward, but vice gets its picture on the front page.